

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

This is a clear abuse of the responsibility on the part of the gatekeepers of mass media. The FCC has been cracking down on obscenity of the visual and verbal, however Sinclair is advertising to broadcast an obscenity of ideology. The simple fact that they are gatekeepers shows that speech is no longer free, it is only available to those that can afford to pay.

Thank you.